What is Claimed is:

1. A multimedia distributing method comprising:

transmitting multimedia data having a first resolution; and

separately transmitting supplemental data, which, when combined with the multimedia data having a first resolution, provides multimedia content at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution.

2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein transmitting multimedia data and separately transmitting supplemental data are at least partially separated in transmission time, space, channel and/or medium.

3. A method according to Claim 1:

wherein transmitting multimedia data comprises streaming multimedia data having a first resolution; and

wherein separately transmitting supplemental data comprises downloading supplemental data, which, when combined with the multimedia data having a first resolution, provides the multimedia content at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution.

4. A method according to Claim 1:

wherein the first resolution comprises a first sampling frequency, a first compression ratio, a first frequency range, a first number of bits of resolution, a first distortion level, a first number of pixels, a first frame rate, a first number of colors and/or a first coding rate; and

wherein the second resolution comprises, respectively, a second sampling frequency that is higher than the first sampling frequency, a second compression ratio that is lower than the first compression ratio, a second frequency range that is wider than the first frequency range, a second number of bits of resolution that is greater than the first number of bits of resolution, a second distortion level that is lower than the first distortion level, a second number of pixels that is greater than the first number of pixels, a second frame rate that is greater than the first frame rate, a second number of colors that is greater than the first number of colors and/or a second coding rate that is higher than the first coding rate.

5. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the supplemental data is of a first size and wherein the multimedia content at the second resolution is of a second size that is larger than the first size.

6. A method according to Claim 1:

wherein transmitting multimedia data is subject to a first digital rights management scheme; and

wherein separately transmitting supplemental data is subject to a second digital rights management scheme that is different from the first digital rights management scheme.

7. A method according to Claim 1:

wherein separately transmitting supplemental data is preceded by receiving payment for the supplemental data that is greater than payment that is received for the multimedia data having a first resolution.

8. A method according to Claim 1:

wherein transmitting multimedia data is performed in real or near real-time; and

wherein separately transmitting supplemental data is not performed in real or near real-time.

9. A method according to Claim 1:

wherein transmitting multimedia data is performed from a first multimedia server; and

wherein separately transmitting supplemental data is performed from a second multimedia server that is different from the first multimedia server.

10. A method according to Claim 1:

wherein transmitting multimedia data is performed using a wireless network; and

wherein separately transmitting supplemental data is performed using a wired network.

11. A method of transmitting a multimedia work comprising:

streaming a first portion of the multimedia work; and

downloading a second portion of the multimedia work, wherein the first and second portions together comprise the multimedia work.

12. A method according to Claim 11:

wherein streaming comprises streaming multimedia data at a first resolution; and

wherein downloading comprises downloading supplemental data, which, when combined with the multimedia data at a first resolution, provides the multimedia work at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution.

13. A method according to Claim 11 wherein streaming and downloading are at least partially separated in transmission time, space, channel and/or medium.

14. A method according to Claim 12:

wherein the first resolution comprises a first sampling frequency, a first compression ratio, a first frequency range, a first number of bits of resolution, a first distortion level, a first number of pixels, a first frame rate, a first number of colors, a first number of channels and/or a first coding rate; and

wherein the second resolution comprises, respectively, a second sampling frequency that is higher than the first sampling frequency, a second compression ratio that is lower than the first compression ratio, a second frequency range that is wider than the first frequency range, a second number of bits of resolution that is greater than the first number of bits of resolution, a second distortion level that is lower than the first distortion level, a second number of pixels that is greater than the first number of pixels, a second frame rate that is greater than the first frame rate, a second number of colors that is greater than the first number of colors, a second number of channels that is greater than the first number of channels and/or a second coding rate that is higher than the first coding rate.

15. A method according to Claim 11:

wherein streaming is subject to a first digital rights management scheme; and

wherein downloading is subject to a second digital rights management scheme that is different from the first digital rights management scheme.

16. A method according to Claim 11:

wherein downloading is preceded by receiving payment for the supplemental data that is greater than payment that is received for the streaming.

17. A method according to Claim 11:

wherein streaming is performed from a first multimedia server; and

wherein downloading is performed from a second multimedia server that is different from the first multimedia server.

18. A method according to Claim 11:

wherein streaming is performed using a wireless network; and

wherein downloading is performed using a wired network.

19. A multimedia playing method comprising:

receiving multimedia data having a first resolution;

separately receiving supplemental data, which, when combined with the multimedia data having a first resolution, provides multimedia content at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution;

combining the multimedia data having a first resolution and the supplemental data to provide the multimedia content at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution; and

playing the multimedia content at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution.

20. A method according to Claim 19 further comprising:

playing the multimedia data at the first resolution.

21. A method according to Claim 20 wherein playing the multimedia data at the first resolution is performed prior to playing the multimedia content at the second resolution that is higher than the first resolution.

22. A method according to Claim 19 wherein receiving, separately receiving, combining and playing are performed in a single user device.

23. A method according to Claim 19 wherein receiving multimedia data and separately receiving supplemental data are at least partially separated in receiving time, originating space, receiving channel and/or medium.

24. A method according to Claim 19:

wherein receiving multimedia data comprises streaming multimedia data having a first resolution; and

wherein separately receiving supplemental data comprises downloading supplemental data, which, when combined with the multimedia data having a first resolution, provides the multimedia content at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution.

25. A method according to Claim 19:

wherein the first resolution comprises a first sampling frequency, a first compression ratio, a first frequency range, a first number of bits of resolution, a first distortion level, a first number of pixels, a first frame rate, a first number of colors and/or a first coding rate; and

wherein the second resolution comprises, respectively, a second sampling frequency that is higher than the first sampling frequency, a second compression ratio that is lower than the first compression ratio, a second frequency range that is wider than the first frequency range, a second number of bits of resolution that is greater than the first number of bits of resolution, a second distortion level that is lower than the first distortion level, a second number of pixels that is greater than the first number of pixels, a second frame rate that is greater than the first frame rate, a second number of colors that is greater than the first number of colors and/or a second coding rate that is higher than the first coding rate.

26. A method according to Claim 19 wherein the supplemental data is of a first size and wherein the multimedia content at the second resolution is of a second size that is larger than the first size.

27. A method according to Claim 19:

wherein receiving multimedia data is subject to a first digital rights management scheme; and

wherein separately receiving supplemental data is subject to a second digital rights management scheme that is different from the first digital rights management scheme.

28. A method according to Claim 19:

wherein separately receiving supplemental data is preceded by providing payment for the supplemental data that is greater than payment that is provided for the multimedia data having a first resolution.

29. A method according to Claim 19:

wherein receiving multimedia data is performed in real or near real-time; and

wherein separately receiving supplemental data is not performed in real or near real-time.

30. A method according to Claim 19:

wherein receiving multimedia data is performed using a wireless network; and

wherein separately receiving supplemental data is performed using a wired network.

31. A method of playing a multimedia work comprising:

streaming a first portion of the multimedia work;

downloading a second portion of the multimedia work;

combining the first and second portions of the multimedia work to generate the multimedia work; and

playing the multimedia work that is generated.

32. A method according to Claim 31:

wherein streaming comprises streaming the multimedia work at a first resolution;

wherein downloading comprises downloading supplemental data, which, when combined with the multimedia work at a first resolution, provides the multimedia work at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution;

wherein the combining comprises combining the multimedia work at a first resolution and the supplemental data to generate the multimedia work at the second resolution; and

wherein playing comprises playing the multimedia work at the second resolution.

33. A method according to Claim 32 further comprising:

playing the multimedia work at the first resolution.

34. A method according to Claim 33 wherein playing the multimedia work at the first resolution is performed prior to playing the multimedia work at the second resolution that is higher than the first resolution.

35. A method according to Claim 31 wherein streaming, downloading, combining and playing are performed in a single user device.

36. A method according to Claim 31 wherein streaming and downloading are at least partially separated in receiving time, originating space, receiving channel and/or medium.

37. A method according to Claim 32:

wherein the first resolution comprises a first sampling frequency, a first compression ratio, a first frequency range, a first number of bits of resolution, a first distortion level, a first number of pixels, a first frame rate, a first number of colors, a first number of channels and/or a first coding rate; and

wherein the second resolution comprises, respectively, a second sampling frequency that is higher than the first sampling frequency, a second compression ratio that is lower than the first compression ratio, a second frequency range that is wider than the first frequency range, a second number of bits of resolution that is greater than the first number of bits of resolution, a second distortion level that is lower than the first distortion level, a second number of pixels that is greater than the first

number of pixels, a second frame rate that is greater than the first frame rate, a second number of colors that is greater than the first number of colors, a second number of channels that is greater than the first number of channels and/or a second coding rate that is higher than the first coding rate.

38. A method according to Claim 31:

wherein streaming is subject to a first digital rights management scheme; and

wherein downloading is subject to a second digital rights management scheme that is different from the first digital rights management scheme.

39. A method according to Claim 31:

wherein downloading is preceded by providing payment for the second portion that is greater than payment that is provided for the first portion.

40. A method according to Claim 31:

wherein streaming is performed using a wireless network; and

wherein downloading is performed using a wired network.

41. A multimedia distribution system comprising:

an encoder that is responsive to input multimedia content and that is configured to encode the input multimedia content at a first resolution and to generate supplemental data, which, when combined with the input multimedia content that is encoded at a first resolution, provides the input multimedia content encoded at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution; and

a transmitter that is responsive to the encoder and that is configured to separately transmit the input multimedia content that is encoded at a first resolution and the supplemental data.

42. The system according to Claim 41 wherein the transmitter is configured to separately transmit the input multimedia content that is encoded at a first resolution and the supplemental data at least partially separated in transmission time, space, channel and/or media.

43. A system according to Claim 41 wherein the transmitter is further configured to stream the input multimedia content that is encoded at a first resolution and to download the supplemental data.

44. A system according to Claim 41:

wherein the first resolution comprises a first sampling frequency, a first compression ratio, a first frequency range, a first number of bits of resolution, a first distortion level, a first number of pixels, a first frame rate, a first number of colors and/or a first coding rate; and

wherein the second resolution comprises, respectively, a second sampling frequency that is higher than the first sampling frequency, a second compression ratio that is lower than the first compression ratio, a second frequency range that is wider than the first frequency range, a second number of bits of resolution that is greater than the first number of bits of resolution, a second distortion level that is lower than the first distortion level, a second number of pixels that is greater than the first number of pixels, a second frame rate that is greater than the first frame rate, a second number of colors that is greater than the first number of colors and/or a second coding rate that is higher than the first coding rate.

45. A system according to Claim 41 wherein the transmitter is configured to transmit the input multimedia content that is encoded at a first resolution subject to a first digital rights management scheme and to separately transmit the supplemental data subject to a second digital rights management scheme that is different from the first digital rights management scheme.

46. A system according to Claim 41 wherein the transmitter is configured to separately transmit the supplemental data in response to receiving payment for the supplemental data that is greater than payment that is received for the input multimedia content that is encoded at a first resolution.

47. A system according to Claim 41 wherein the transmitter is configured to transmit the input multimedia content that is encoded at a first resolution in real or near real-time and to separately transmit the supplemental data in other than real or near real-time.

48. A system according to Claim 41 wherein the transmitter comprises:

a first multimedia server that is configured to transmit the input multimedia content that is encoded at a first resolution; and

a second multimedia server that is configured to transmit the supplemental data.

49. A system for transmitting a multimedia work comprising:

a streaming server that is configured to transmit a first portion of the multimedia work; and

a downloading server that is configured to transmit a second portion of the multimedia work, wherein the first and second portions together comprise the multimedia work.

50. A system according to Claim 49:

wherein the streaming server is configured to stream multimedia data at a first resolution; and

wherein the downloading server is configured to download supplemental data, which, when combined with the multimedia data at a first resolution, provides the multimedia work at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution.

51. A system according to Claim 49:

wherein the streaming server is configured to transmit the first portion of the multimedia work subject to a first digital rights management scheme; and

wherein the downloading server is configured to transmit the second portion of the multimedia work subject to a second digital rights management scheme that is different from the first digital rights management scheme.

52. A system according to Claim 49:

wherein the downloading server is configured to transmit the second portion of the multimedia work subject to receiving payment for the second portion that is greater than payment that is received for the first portion.

53. A multimedia playing system comprising:

a receiver that is configured to receive multimedia data having a first resolution and to separately receive supplemental data, which, when combined with the multimedia data having a first resolution, provides multimedia content at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution;

a processor that is configured to combine the multimedia data having a first resolution and the supplemental data to provide the multimedia content at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution; and

a multimedia transducer that is configured to play the multimedia content at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution.

54. A system according to Claim 53 wherein the multimedia transducer is further configured to play the multimedia data having a first resolution.

55. A system according to Claim 53 wherein the supplemental data is at least partially separated from the multimedia data having a first resolution in receiving time, originating space, receiving channel and/or medium.

56. A system according to Claim 53:

wherein the receiver is further configured to stream the multimedia data having a first resolution and download the supplemental data.

57. A system according to Claim 53:

wherein the first resolution comprises a first sampling frequency, a first compression ratio, a first frequency range, a first number of bits of resolution, a first distortion level, a first number of pixels, a first frame rate, a first number of colors and/or a first coding rate; and

wherein the second resolution comprises, respectively, a second sampling frequency that is higher than the first sampling frequency, a second compression ratio that is lower than the first compression ratio, a second frequency range that is wider than the first frequency range, a second number of bits of resolution that is greater than the first number of bits of resolution, a second distortion level that is lower than the first distortion level, a second number of pixels that is greater than the first number of pixels, a second frame rate that is greater than the first frame rate, a second

number of colors that is greater than the first number of colors and/or a second coding rate that is higher than the first coding rate.

58. A system according to Claim 53:

wherein the receiver is further configured to receive the multimedia data having a first resolution subject to a first digital rights management scheme and to separately receive the supplemental data subject to a second digital rights management scheme that is different from the first digital rights management scheme.

59. A system according to Claim 53:

wherein the receiver is configured to separately receive the supplemental data subject to providing payment for the supplemental data that is greater than payment that is provided for the multimedia data having a first resolution.

60. A system for playing a multimedia work comprising:

a receiver that is configured to stream a first portion of the multimedia work and to download a second portion of the multimedia work;

a processor that is configured to combine the first and second portions of the multimedia work to generate the multimedia work; and

a multimedia transducer that is configured to play the multimedia work that is generated.

61. A system according to Claim 60:

wherein the receiver is configured to stream the multimedia work at a first resolution and to download the second portion as supplemental data, which, when combined with the first portion, provides the multimedia work at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution;

wherein the processor is configured to combine the multimedia work at a first resolution and the supplemental data to generate the multimedia work at the second resolution; and

wherein the multimedia transducer is configured to play the multimedia work at the second resolution.

62. A system according to Claim 61 wherein the multimedia transducer is further configured to play the multimedia work at the first resolution.

63. A system according to Claim 62 wherein the multimedia transducer is further configured to play the multimedia work at the first resolution prior to playing the multimedia work at the second resolution that is higher than the first resolution.

64. A system according to Claim 60 wherein the first and second portions of the multimedia work are at least partially separated in receiving time, originating space, receiving channel and/or medium.

65. A system according to Claim 61:

wherein the first resolution comprises a first sampling frequency, a first compression ratio, a first frequency range, a first number of bits of resolution, a first distortion level, a first number of pixels, a first frame rate, a first number of colors, a first number of colors and/or a first coding rate; and

wherein the second resolution comprises, respectively, a second sampling frequency that is higher than the first sampling frequency, a second compression ratio that is lower than the first compression ratio, a second frequency range that is wider than the first frequency range, a second number of bits of resolution that is greater than the first number of bits of resolution, a second distortion level that is lower than the first distortion level, a second number of pixels that is greater than the first number of pixels, a second frame rate that is greater than the first frame rate, a second number of colors that is greater than the first number of colors, a second number of channels that is greater than the first number of channels and/or a second coding rate that is higher than the first coding rate.

66. A system according to Claim 60:

wherein the receiver is configured to stream the first portion subject to a first digital rights management scheme; and

wherein the receiver is configured to download the second portion subject to a second digital rights management scheme that is different from the first digital rights management scheme.

67. A system according to Claim 60:

wherein the receiver is configured to download the second portion subject to payment for the second portion that is greater than payment that is provided for the first portion.